

# R.A.C.E. JOURNAL

JULY, 1987

REDDING ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

## R.A.C.E. 8-BIT

Rico's Pizza Parlor  
1st Saturday of each  
Month 6pm  
TIM WINTERS 347-3151



## R.A.C.E. ST SIG

Shasta Meadows Elementary  
2nd Saturday of each  
Month 7pm  
MIKE FARRAR, 243-5189, 347-0416



**BROOKE SHIELDS**

R.A.C.E. P.O. BOX 818, COTTONWOOD, CA. 96022



# PUBLISHING PARTNER

Publishing Partner is the newest entry into Desktop Publishing for the ATARI ST. It is produced by Sofilogik Corporation of St. Louis. It is a mouse-driven program that is a combination of typesetting, graphics, and forms design. I produced our club's 10 page newsletter exclusively with PP and used every possible feature I could find in the program. The following are my findings.

One of the first things I noticed about the program that I liked was the fact that it is not copy protected so it can be totally installed on a hard-disk. It is also smart enough (unlike VIP and some others) to be totally run from folders (sub-directories) and remember from one time you run it to the next where you keep your documents, text files, and graphic files, even if they're all in different folders or even different drives. That impressed me.

This is a true Desktop Publishing program, configured very similarly to the Pagemaker for the Macintosh, which is considered the "ultimate" in DP so far. From the manual's introduction: "First you can do a rough page design by creating columns and graphics and then start adding text. See how it fits. See how it looks. See how it flows on to the next page. Make some changes. Try a different type face, or a different size, or some borders, or even some pictures. You'll see instantly if your new idea works or not." This is what is known as a WYSIWYG type program (What You See Is What You Get) that shows on the screen what your final product will look like in print.

The program is very easy to use as almost everything is available from the drop-down menus and the "toolbox" on the right side of the screen. I recommend reading the manual before you attempt any important projects to catch the few tricky features not in the menus, however.

The Toolbox allows you to switch between text mode and object mode for manipulating the different parts of your document. The text mode enables you to enter text from the keyboard

or from an ASCII text file into columns you have established or outside of columns if you want more free-standing text. The object editor allows you to create, resize, reposition, or delete columns, or alter attributes of your columns, or resize, reposition, or delete graphic objects such as lines, boxes, and circles. The scissors allows you to crop sections of pictures you create or import. The PIC option allows you to import DEGAS, NeoChrome, or Tinyview pictures into your document.

The next eight boxes in the Toolbox allow you to generate your own circles, ellipses, boxes, rounded boxes, vertical or horizontal lines, diagonal lines, polygons, or do freehand drawing on your document.

The next section in the Toolbox controls page manipulation. It allows you to establish "master page(s)" which enable you to create text or graphics that will be automatically duplicated on each succeeding page. You can do a single or double master page. The single will duplicate on every page following the first. The double will allow opposite page differences for book-type output (ie every other page duplication of features). You can move from page to page or type in a page number and go directly to that page.

The last three items in the Toolbox are LINE, FILL, and COLOR. LINE allows control of line type (solid, dashes, dotted, etc) and line width. You can even create your own line style with the line editor. The line type you choose will be used when generating any of the above mentioned graphic objects (ie boxes, circles, etc). The FILL options allow you to define the fill pattern you want to use for drawing circles, boxes, and ellipses. You can design your own fill pattern also. The color option allows you to define the color you want when placing objects on the screen as well as color print-outs if you have a color printer!

The drop-down menus are File, Create-Layout, View, Style, Format, and Edit. The File menu starts you out when beginning a new document with the ability to select a page size and shape from 1 inch by 1 inch



to 18 inches by 18 inches, double or single sided, portrait (vertical) or landscape (horizontal). You can load a previously made document, append to your existing document and save your document to disk. You can import text or graphics, or export text to disk. You can format a disk, delete files, and rename files (very handy features) from this menu also. Your printing options are in this menu as well, including selecting which printer driver you want to use and which port you will be sending to (or to disk file). You can indicate which pages or series of pages to print (ascending or descending), how many copies to print, whether to print full size or reduced size print, which colors to use, and whether or not to collate your printed output if you want more than one copy of a multiple-paged document. Then you can save this configuration to a config file so you don't have to re-create all of this the next time you want to generate a product. Pretty neat!

The program was created to take advantage of the ATARI GDOS for printing very high-resolution products. However ATARI has not published it's full GDOS yet, so you are limited to standard Epson-type printing which is a bit limited. The manual explains how to use the GDOS printing capabilities, but an addendum came with the manual telling you to ignore the GDOS portion of the manual until GDOS is published. I called SoftLogik and was told they have no idea when the full version of GDOS will be available, but a program upgrade will be available as soon as GDOS comes out. Because of this limitation, you can only use the fonts that have a matching printer font file on the disk. There was only one on my copy of the program, Helvetica. If you use any of the other screen fonts such as standard, or Times, the printer driver will try to convert it to Helvetica and lose track of where it's printing and create all sorts of weird outputs. I know, I tried it. The very helpful gentleman that I talked to at the company said they are publishing a fonts disk sometime in February with several more screen and printer fonts.

By the way, if you happen to have a Postscript type laser printer, you can print out a document of very good quality with this program. Isn't that what Desktop Publishing is all about? If you do not own a Postscript

compatible device but know someone who does, you can load the Postscript output driver and select "Print to Disk" and send your print file to any Postscript compatible printer and you can have a great laser-printed product anyway.

The Create-Layout menu allow you to create the general outline of your document. You can create perfectly placed columns, generate automatic routing of text from column to column, establish tabs and snap-to guides (left justify lines for object orientation), insert pages, delete pages, insert objects into your master page from another page, insert automatic page numbering, and establish your measuring system (Picas, Inches, or Centimeters). The main drawback in this area is the inability to import or export previously created pages. This I found to be very annoying when trying to generate a 10 page newsletter which evolves over a 3 week period. You can save your work one page at a time, but that eliminates text flow from a column on one page to a column on another page.



The View menu allows you to view the page from several different perspectives. You can view 2 pages at a time, side by side on one screen (not very readable), or you can choose from several options: full page, 50%, actual size, 200%, full width, or you can set your own user view scale and save that in your configuration file. You can bring the different objects (columns, text objects, or graphic objects) to the front if you have overlapping objects, or send objects to the back for different viewing effects. You can toggle the rulers which line up the left side and across the top of



the document which can measure your document in inches, centimeters, or picas (1/6 inch) and shows hash marks on each ruler indicating your cursor position. You can show text routing indicators. You can toggle the Show Pictures option to enable faster screen refreshing without the pictures. Show Column Outline indicates exact column locations, and Show grid permits a background grid display behind your objects for positioning ease.

The Style menu enables you to choose from the available fonts and point sizes (from 5 to 216 points, where 72 points = 1 inch). You can also select the following text attributes: Backslant, Bold, Double Underline, Italicize, Light, Mirror, Outline, Reverse Text, Shadow, Strike Through, Tall (Double height), Underline, Upside Down, and Wide (Double width). You can click on one or more attributes and then what you type from then on will show those attributes. You can also highlight text and change the attributes by clicking on the ones you want.

The Format menu is sort of an extension of the Style menu. You can make your text Superscript, Subscript, or Baseline (normal) Script. You can change text to all upper case or all lower case. You can cause text to block left, center, or right. You can have your text character justified (like newspapers do) or word justify (like a word processor). You can alter margins, line spacing, and character spacing. You can also control manual kerning and hyphenating. Kerning is the character spacing between any two characters. One thing missing here is automatic hyphenation, which would be a very handy feature.

The Edit menu allows you to delete highlighted text or text objects or graphics. You can search and replace text within columns, copy or move text or graphics to or from a copy buffer for simple manipulation of your document. You may also toggle the insert mode from this menu.

To top this all off, basically everything you can do in this program with your mouse (mostly everything), you can also do with keyboard commands using combinations of the Alternate, Esc, or Control keys with letter keys.

This is what is commonly known as the "expert mode" for people who are very familiar with the product and want to work faster than using a mouse will allow. And even better, you can

combine these keyboard combinations into "macros" to save to the function keys. A macro can contain up to 63 characters and can be used on any of the 10 function keys.

Publishing Partner has one serious drawback that I have not mentioned so far. It does not do "wrap around". That is, if you have a graphic or text object overlaying a column of text, you can not have the text wrap around the object. I would like to see this added in a future upgrade.

To run PP you need a minimum of 512k memory, one disk drive and TOS on ROM. It will run in medium or high res. In fact you get two disks with the program, one is the monochrome version and the other, the color version. As I only have a color monitor, I can only discuss that version. I was very happy with what I saw, even though I had to view my text in actual size to be able to read it. The mono version is most likely much clearer.

The manual is very easy to read and has a good reference section and full index. The entire manual was typeset with PP and printed on a laser printer. Very impressive.

All in all, I found Publishing Partner to be a very useful, easy to learn, and easy to use program. The support available was impressive, a my call (after hours) was answered promptly and efficiently, and my problem (remember the printer font problem?) was recognized and solved instantly, courteously, and with no hassle. Considering the price, which is listed at \$149 but if you look around, you should be able to get for around \$100, I would say that PP is an excellent value. If I were Info World, I'd probably rate PP at about an 8.0. If you ever put out any kind of newsletter or bulletin, or need to create any type of forms, or just like to mess around with graphics and text on a computer, I highly recommend this product.





# Atari Basic Commands

by Mike Dennis

Yet another article on ATARI BASIC and related subjects. This month I am covering the well-known DATA statement. The basic structure of the DATA statement is;

```
10 READ A
20 IF A=-1 THEN "DONE" :END
30 ? A
40 GOTO 10
1000 DATA 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
    (OR ANY SEQUENCE OF DATA)
```

## Program Evaluation:

Line 10: COMMAND to READ a PIECE OF DATA from the DATA in line 1000.

Line 20: checks to see if you are at the end of your DATA. This works well, but in order to use it, your last DATA must be -1, 'cause the program will stop when it hits the first -1.

Line 30: PRINTS the value of A to the default device (EDITOR).

Line 40: loops back up and returns control to Line 10.

Line 1000: Contains the DATA to be read. After the first READ, the POINTER will move one number (or string) up the DATA lines.

So. If you run the program it should look like;

```
12345678910
DONE
READY
```

THAT'S what it should do. But I forgot to put a -1 in the DATA. Correct this minor mistake by typing this correction

1010 DATA -1 You can put any number of numbers in your DATA statements. After the program has exhausted the DATA in line 1000, it will move to the next line, in



this case 1010. When the program notes that it has reached a -1, it PRINTS "DONE."

You may also put string DATA in DATA statements...

```
1000 DATA UNICOM,MARTURIA,ALITAR'S
    LAIR,AMAZON
1010 DATA JANE,SPOT,SCOTT
1020 DATA END OF DATA
```

Using this DATA, you must set up the computer to utilize STRINGS

```
10 DIM S$(70)
20 READ S$
30 IF S$="END OF DATA" THEN
    "DONE" :END
40 GOTO 10
```

## \*\*\*\*\* ANOTHER VITAL POINT \*\*\*\*\*

If you want to move the POINTER back to the beginning of your DATA, use the RESTORE command. RESTORE moves the POINTER to the first line of DATA in the program. RESTORE 1010 moves the pointer to the first ELEMENT in 1010.

## WHAT could be SIMPLER?

If you have any questions relating to ATARI BASIC, leave E-MAIL on MARTURIA BBS or ATARI UNICOM BBS to MIKE DENNIS

I need YOUR help, so that I can write what you need

THANX \*\* THANTANOS \*\*



# R.A.C.E. ST SIG MEETING NOTES

## JUNE 1987

Bob Wlerman began the help session part of the user group meeting, continuing with desktop functions and general questions and answers. There was a fairly large number of people who attended this section of the meeting and others are encouraged to come if they find they are running into problems with their utilization of their computer.

Mike began the general meeting with a different demo than usual. He had downloaded a file from Hal Bonillas' BBS which had originated from Germany. It was a band of animals playing a bass guitar, synthesizer and drums. A very well done animation and sound demo. Mike said that it would be available in the R.A.C.E. ST SIG Disk Library and might appear on next month's club disk. After this demonstration the usual slideshow presentation took place. These are pictures which are in compressed Tiny format and are acquired from other groups and BBS's across the country.

Mike reported that the number of programs and disks in the Disk Library are becoming too numerous to consider printing them out in detailed format. Several options were discussed and Mike stated that he would be working on a compromise this next month which would get a listing of the library into

the hands of users. Also discussed were the need for funds to compensate for printing and mailing costs. Mike said that as long as he was allowed to provide items for sale at the regular computer meetings and functions he does not mind incurring this debt for the club until funds become available for repayment. Several ideas were discussed as to how to make up this deficit but nothing was decided upon. R.A.C.E. ST SIG T-Shirts are still available. Transfers are available for \$4.00 at Shasta Silly Shirt Shoppe and Silkscreen. A certificate can be purchased from Mike Farrar for \$4.00 and this can be taken to the store and redeemed for a transfer which can be placed on a T-Shirt of your choice. The latest user group member listing and R.A.C.E. JOURNAL was made available. It is being published using Publishing Partner by Softlogic. See the review in this newsletter for all the low-downs on this magnificent program. Individuals can still join the user group Sig by sending \$10 to Mike. You will then be put on the database as a paid member and receive the RACE JOURNAL in the mail each month.

Mike discussed his trip to the Desktop Publishing Seminar at Atari Corporation this last month. He said that there really is a Mega ST and Atari Lazer Printer. He saw both of



them side-by-side and actually working. They were prototypes but did function. Mike passed out several samples of output from the Atari Lazer which he had obtained at the meeting. Various software companies were at the meeting and a more detailed discussion of his trip can be read in the June issue of the RACE JOURNAL. Mike also mentioned that he had an optometric convention right after the Atari seminar and believe it or not he saw an ST at the convention. In the optometric product exhibits was a 1040ST running a vision field screener. It included a color monitor, software and field presentation screen. The name on the computer had been changed by Marco Equipment Company but the production label on the back still stated it was made by Atari. Mike passed out several brochures he had picked up about this system.



It was announced that there was going to be an Atari Fest in Santa Clara this month and anyone who planned on attending should possibly work out a carpool since several had expressed interest in attending. This should be the

closest our group will be to a planned Atari Fest. Atari Corporation plans to be there and be involved in the organization so it should also be one of the better shows.

CBC Consulting apparently has come out with a program update on DBMaster. Mike passed out information on this program and said that updates can be ordered directly from the company or through his computer store. It works out to be a little cheaper if ordered through his store, but the difference is very slight.



Next month a Telecommunications presentation is planned. Mike will work with Hal Bonillas of Atari Unicom and see what can be arranged. Mike also runs a BBS (MARTURIA) and the session should prove to be very educational for those who are unfamiliar with telecommunications. The location for the next meeting and possibly also in August needs to change since the school classroom is being worked on and Bob Wierman and Traci Burton will be out of town in August. Mike suggested his church building, but will validate this and get maps and invitations out to



club members before the meeting.

The latest club disk was demonstrated by Mike. This month several great games were included such as Plutos and a Timebandit demo. Also included is a printer configuration utility program for Epson printers. This disk issue was well received and copies were grabbed up. Mike is also making available past RACE ST SIG Monthly Disks so back issues can be obtained for regular club prices. Mike made announcements of new software out for the ST. One program which should prove very useful to computer users is Certificate Maker from Springboard Software. This allows you to create all sorts of certificates and awards for different occasions. Mike also is searching out a new distributor for disks. His current supplier has doubled their price, but Mike thinks he has located a new one with something close to old pricing so that he can continue to offer disks at \$11.95/10 3.5" bulk disks.



Mike encouraged members to consider writing articles for the RACE JOURNAL. There is also room for more articles by users of the ST and 8-bit computers and this would

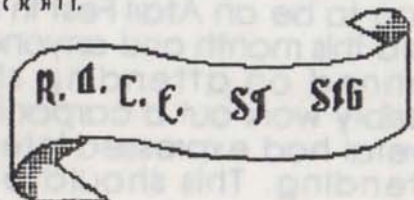
help out a lot in the production of the newsletter.



The new ST TOUR Disk from Atari was demonstrated briefly. It is a disk which takes you through the desktop and functions of it for the ST. It is very well done and very helpful. Copies were picked up very quickly by members and will also be available at future meetings.

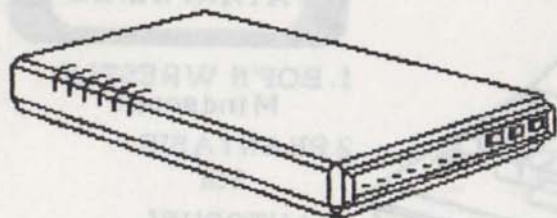
Last but not least, Mike had brought from his store the newly released Stereo Tek glasses for demonstration. These allow for 3D animation presentations using pictures which are created with CAD 3D or Degas Elite. There were many comments about the realness of the depth observed. The glasses retail for \$189.00, Antic is running a special on them at \$149.95 and Cottonwood Computers sells them for \$145.95.

The meeting was concluded at this time and several discussions began on various topics as Mike conducted business in the back of the room.





# ATARI ST/8-BIT BBS's



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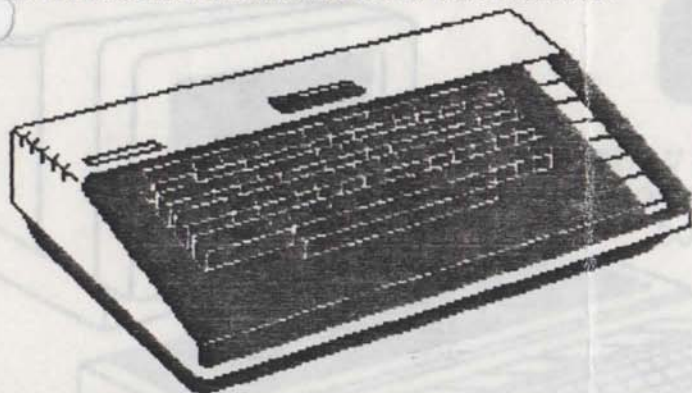


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TODAY!

EACH OF THESE BBS's HAVE NUMEROUS DOWNLOADS FOR BOTH THE ST AND 8-BIT LINE. ATARI UNICOM HAS BEEN ON LINE FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW AND HAS PROVED TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER IN NEW DOWNLOADS AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATARI COMPUTERS IT IS RUN ON A 130XE USING A SUPRA 20 MEGABYTE HARD DISK AND USING AN AVATEX 1200 MODEM. MARTURIA HAS ONLY BEEN RUNNING FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR BUT HAS RECENTLY GONE TO A NEW BBS PROGRAM, IS RUN ON A 520ST, SUPRA HARD DISK AND COURIER 2400 BAUD MODEM



# TOP 12 ATARI PROGRAMS

## ATARI XL/XE



1 BOP'N WRESTLE  
Mindscape

2. PHANTASIE  
SSI

3. AUTODUEL  
Electronic Arts

4. PAWN  
Firebird

5 ATARIWRITER PLUS  
Atari

6 WARGAME CONSTRUCTION  
SSI

7 221 B BAKER STREET  
Datasoft

8 TOP GUNNER SERIES  
Microprose

9 PRINT SHOP  
Broderbund

10. SYNFILE+  
Broderbund

11 RACING DESTRUCTION  
Electronic Arts

12. TRIPPLE PACK  
Accolade

## ATARI ST LINE

1 FLIGHT SIMULATOR II  
Sublogic

2. WORD WRITER ST  
Timeworks

3. HARDBALL  
Accolade

4. ROADWAR 2000  
SSI

5. MICROLEAGUE BASEBALL  
Microleague

6 CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL  
Gamestar

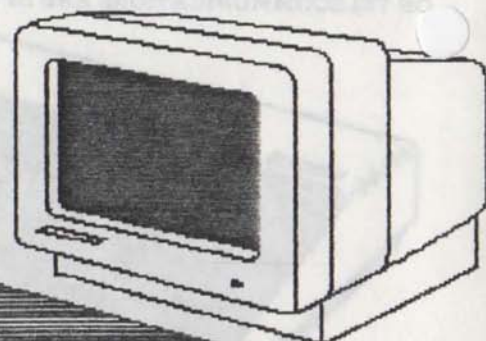
7. CHESSMASTER 2000  
Electronic Arts

8 GOLDEN PATH  
Firebird

9. FASTER VOL I, NO 6  
Datafree

10. DATA MANAGER ST  
Timeworks

12 GOD RUNNER  
Michtron



11. GFA BASIC INTERPRETER  
Michtron



# DAISY DOT & FONT MASTER

## Two Public Domain Winners for the 8-bit Ataris

Review by John Godbey Edited by Mike Farrar

One undeniable fact about the Atari 8-bit computer is that the supply of new innovative commercial programs is drying up. But this does not mean that there is no new worthwhile software for these computers. A number of interesting products are entering the Public Domain. The following programs are of this type and are available free and are as well done as many expensive commercial programs.

### DAISY-DOT

"DAISY-DOT" is a program that will make an ordinary Epson or Star printer produce near letter quality print. It is a compiled Turbo Basic program written by Roy Goldman. It is a stand alone program but since it is written in Turbo Basic, it will only run on the XL or XE computers. The program is quite simple to use. Take any file and "print" it to a disk. Load Daisy-Dot and the font you desire and the program will print it in either standard, condensed, or double-size print. The program prints a line, advances the page slightly, and prints it again. The results I get on my Epson RX-80 printer are amazing. The letters no longer look like a bunch of dots, nor do they look wide and smeared. They look nearly as good as a typewriter. The disk comes with an added bonus, a font editor to

allow the creation of new NLQ fonts.

### FONT MASTER

"FONT MASTER" is another printer utility for the 8-bit Atari. It was written by Mike Fulton in Action! It also is a stand alone program that will run on all 8-bit Ataris with at least 48K memory. The "Font Master" disk has 3 parts. The first is a program that will print out files, including graphics characters, along the line of "Megafont". If you don't have a program which does this, the price is right for this one. The second part is 35 different fonts which can be used for the print outs. I haven't tried them all, but they seem to encompass the standard varieties of fonts. The final part is a program called "Sideways" which allows you to print out SynCalc files, as you might guess sideways. The SynCalc file must be saved with the Text Option. The total file must not exceed 18,000 characters and 40 lines vertical. This program works with Epson compatibles and Star printers. This is not a program you will use every day, but if you find yourself doing spreadsheet work you will sooner or later wish you had the option of sideways print.

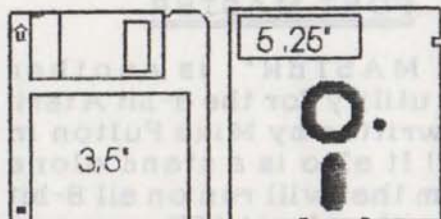
Keep encouraging the development of 8-bit software both Public Domain & Commercial.



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ATARI ST \$15.95

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